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# Implementation of the Declaration of Principles on Tolerance and the Follow-up Plan of Action for the United Nations Year for Tolerance

## Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit the report of the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on the implementation of the Declaration of Principles on Tolerance and the Follow-up Plan of Action for the United Nations Year for Tolerance, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 51/95 of 12 December 1996.

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# Report on the implementation of the Declaration of Principles on Tolerance and the Follow-up Plan of Action for the United Nations Year for Tolerance (1996–1998)

1. In its resolution 51/95, adopted on 12 December 1995, the General Assembly recalled its resolutions 47/124, 48/126 and 49/213 concerning the United Nations Year for Tolerance (1995). In that resolution it asked UNESCO to coordinate actions in support of tolerance promotion and education in partnership with other United Nations agencies and regional, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. It also asked UNESCO to make reports available to it on a biennial basis on the implementation of the Declaration of Principles on Tolerance and the Follow-up Plan of Action for the United Nations Year for Tolerance (adopted on 16 November 1995). This report is submitted pursuant to that resolution.

## I. Observance of the first International Day for Tolerance throughout the world in 1996

2. This first International Day for Tolerance coincided with the consideration of the final report on the Year for Tolerance, the Declaration of Principles and the Follow-up Plan of Action. Numerous States supported the UNESCO Tolerance Programme and its publications on the matter were distributed.

3. In the Philippines, the Department of Education, Culture and Sports circulated a Presidential Proclamation on the Day to all the schools in the country. UNESCO associated schools received the Declaration of Principles on Tolerance and the Follow-up Plan of Action, together with translations into the national language. They organized special events, including an essay contest for high-school students on "What Tolerance Means to Me". The book *Values Education for Peace and Tolerance through History* was launched on the Day.

4. The Egyptian Government marked the Day with a televised ceremony at the Cairo Opera house during which the flags of tolerance were raised. The Polish, Costa Rican, Ecuadorian and Kuwaiti Governments also displayed the flags and they were featured along with 1,000 copies of the new Helmut Langer tolerance posters, in displays exhibitions organized by the Aichi prefectural authorities in Japan.

5. In the Russian Federation, the ITAR-TASS news agency disseminated the Director-General's message on the Day. The Russian National Commission distributed the Day's UNESCO press release to the media. UNESCO associated schools observed the Day with special lessons, and raised the flags of tolerance. The National Conference of Associated Schools focused on tolerance promotion programmes; the newspaper *Nezavisimaya Gazeta* published an article on tolerance in post-Communist societies.

6. The Government of Madagascar organized a song-writing competition on tolerance in the context of a cultural campaign involving singers, writers, painters and journalists, as well as UNESCO clubs. The Togolese Federation of UNESCO clubs and associations organized a week of activities to promote tolerance. In Chad, the Government organized a drawing contest, a televised round table meeting and a cultural programme of music, poetry and dance.

7. The Government of the Netherlands Antilles printed posters, brochures, buttons and calendars. The Turkish Ministry of Education organized a large-scale observance of the Day in universities and schools involving conferences, competitions, prizes and artistic events on the theme of tolerance. The International Foundation for Human Development of Hyderabad, India sponsored essay contests and radio broadcasts, publicized the Day in the *Asia Pacific Link Newsletter* and organized youth rallies at the Government College of Mahbubnagar in Marikal.

8. In New York, the flags of tolerance flew for several weeks at 60 Wall Street opposite the New York Stock Exchange. In London, they were hung in the hall used for the MTV European Music Awards.

9. Many national commissions, including those of Egypt, Colombia, Chad, Romania (which organized a large-scale observance in the schools), Senegal, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Gabon, Greece, Guinea, Ecuador, Mexico, the Philippines, Argentina, Brazil, Mozambique and Suriname, distributed sets of the four colour posters on tolerance for children.

10. UNESCO regional offices were also very active, particularly those in Abidjan, El Salvador, Brasilia, Mozambique, Benin, Togo, Bangkok, Peru and Zambia, as was the Regional Centre for Higher Education in Latin America and the Pacific in Caracas. The regional office in Montevideo translated, printed and distributed 12,000 copies of the poster sets to all public schools in Uruguay, published inserts about the Day in several newspapers and organized a national essay contest on the subject of tolerance in

cooperation with the Carlos Milies Foundation, which had already organized a one-day seminar on tolerance in October. The national commission for UNESCO of the Republic of Korea produced and distributed the tolerance posters in Korean. The associated schools in Australia, Zaire and Argentina also distributed the posters as did the UNESCO clubs in the east central Burkina Faso and the French-speaking community in Belgium. Finally, the Day was announced on the Vatican Radio.

## II. Observance of the International Day for Tolerance throughout the World in 1997

11. All countries without exception resorted to the media, whether the written press or radio and television. Articles on tolerance and on the fight against violence were published in various national newspapers, either by the national commissions of Member States or by their prominent writers, as in the case of Egypt.

12. Some countries, such as Benin, Brazil, Germany, Senegal, Togo and Uganda, held many public events, including cultural conferences and meetings, seminars and speeches, some of which were broadcast on television and the radio. Several cultural and scientific themes were the subject of debates: in Brazil, there was a seminar on the theme "Science, scientists and tolerance".

13. Considerable efforts were made to inform schoolchildren by reading or distributing the Declaration of Principles on Tolerance (Kuwait and the Philippines); disseminating a text on the theme of tolerance (Lebanon); devoting lessons to tolerance in all schools (Senegal); organizing fora called "Fora and exchanges" (Togo). In other cases, posters calling on people to fight for tolerance were posted in all the libraries (Trinidad and Tobago).

14. In India, Egypt and Kuwait, an important place was given to games and other game-related activities on the theme of tolerance. People were also encouraged to write essays or short stories such as *Nous vivons ensemble bien que nous soyons different* and *La tolerance dans l'Islam* (Egypt).

15. The French federation of UNESCO clubs concluded two years of work on intolerance and social stereotypes with a workshop on that theme for young people (7 and 8 December 1997).

16. In Côte d'Ivoire, children were given pins with the UNESCO logo and various educational institutions received presents and sports equipment. The Filofil company in Lille, France, created a tolerance chart made up of texts against racism and exclusion written by young people between the ages of 8 and 16 (March 1998).

17. The UNESCO club UJAMAA in the Democratic Republic of the Congo instituted a Tolerance Cup sporting competition and organized several children's contests on the theme of tolerance and the culture of peace. For its part the Federation togolaise des associations et clubs UNESCO organized, as part of the annual tolerance week which has been observed since 1995, a UNESCO cup for tolerance which took place in Lomé.

18. Côte d'Ivoire organized a football match between journalists from various press centres.

19. The Egyptian Government had the tolerance banners fly in front of the building housing the Egyptian newspaper *Al-Ahram* all day on 16 November 1997.

20. Kuwait, for its part, issued postage stamps on the theme of tolerance. They can be obtained from the Kuwaiti National Commission for UNESCO.

21. At UNESCO headquarters, the Day saw the launching of the first film festival against exclusion and for tolerance. It was organized by the Unit for Tolerance of the Division of Human Rights, Democracy and Peace of the Social and Human Sciences Sector, in cooperation with the town of Drancy, France and the Drancy Camp historical preservation trust. It continued for an entire week from 16 to 23 November 1997.

## III. Pedagogical activities

22. A set of the four educational tolerance posters produced in 1996 by the Unit for Tolerance was distributed to all national commissions and associated schools. A second printing was made in 1997, with additional language versions. In 1997, the UNESCO Education Sector produced a three-volume tolerance teaching guide, intended for primary schools, secondary schools and teacher-training institutions, for sale by UNESCO Publishing in English, French and Spanish. It also established an Asia/Pacific Network for International Education and Values Education to promote regional education policies, teaching materials and teacher training on those issues, including education for tolerance.

23. A tolerance teaching kit was produced in 1997 by the French non-governmental organization, Secours catholique, under contract with UNESCO. An international Forum on

Education for Non-Violence was held in Sintra, Portugal, from 22 to 24 May 1996. It launched an interregional project to establish a culture of peace and non-violence in educational institutions, including school pilot projects in various regions.

24. In January 1996 the UNESCO Office in New Delhi organized a seminar in Sri Lanka on the theme "Tolerance and national reconciliation, which focused on multilingual education.

25. The Argentine association Centro de Información para el Desarrollo sponsored with UNESCO a conference on tolerance education (28 June 1996).

26. A special project involving an international survey on young people's perceptions of violence on the screen was carried out in 1996 and 1997 as a joint research project by the World Organization of the Scout Movement and the University of Utrecht. More than 5,000 students from 23 different countries (Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Brazil, Canada, Costa Rica, Croatia, Egypt, Fiji, Germany, India, Japan, Mauritius, the Netherlands, Peru, the Philippines, Qatar, South Africa, Tajikistan, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago and Ukraine) participated. The final report on the survey was published and presented at a press conference organized by the Director-General in February 1998. It was also presented at the second world summit on children's television in London in March 1998. There are plans to maintain an ongoing dialogue on this topic and close collaboration between the project partners. The results of the project will be discussed at length at a round table meeting scheduled to take place in Santiago, in December 1998, in the context of the world jamboree organized by the scouts.

27. The international centre for the exchange of information on children and screen violence established by UNESCO at the NORDICOM documentation centre at the University of Gotenberg, Sweden, published its first quarterly information letter and, in March 1998, its first directory entitled *Children and Media Violence*.

28. The PROCALMUC project (literacy and training for women) is training 10,000 women in cooperation with the National Women's Bureau, the United Nations Development Programme, the Foundation for Public Interest, the United Nations Children's Fund and the United Nations Development Fund for Women.

29. The UNESCO Participation Programme contributed to an international meeting to promote religious tolerance in South-East Asia, organized in Australia by the World Conference on Religion and Peace and towards the publication, by the Government of Tonga, of books on tolerance for primary school pupils, in the national language.

30. In 1998, an information and documentation centre "room for tolerance" was established within the Ministry of Justice of Brazil, as part of the national human rights campaign.

# IV. Media

## A. Printed and audio-visual press

31. The second Office of Public Information press kit on tolerance was distributed worldwide in 1996. A book entitled *Tolérance*, presenting an important series of photographs, paintings and texts, was published jointly by UNESCO Publishing and the Office of Public Information.

32. The UNESCO Office in Dakar organized a subregional workshop from 21 to 25 April, in Kigali, on the role of the press in promoting human rights, consolidating democracy and tolerance.

33. In the period 1996–1997 a series of technical meetings on the role of the media in promoting peace, tolerance and integration were held in Panama, El Salvador and Ecuador. Videos on the theme of unity in diversity produced in seven countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan) were shown at the MIR film festival in Baku, in October 1996. Collaborative audio-visual productions of the Office of Public Information and Cable News Network resulted in eight broadcasts on the activities of the UNESCO Tolerance Programme, which were broadcast worldwide.

34. The UNESCO Tolerance Programme was presented at the third European Forum of media against racism and intolerance, which was held at the Council of Europe in Strasbourg, France, on 21 March 1997.

35. On 25 March 1997 La Cinquième TV channel (France) celebrated the first Day for Tolerance, devoting all its programmes to that theme.

36. The UNESCO Tolerance Programme installed an Internet web-site on the UNESCO server in April 1997.

37. On 3 May 1997, UNESCO participated in the celebration of Freedom of the Press Day in Bilbao, Spain, within the framework of an international conference of journalists on the theme "Time for Tolerance – Journalism and the Challenge of Racism".

## B. Publications

### New language editions of the Declaration of Principles on Tolerance

38. Pursuant to paragraph 2 (a) of resolution 28 C/5.6, adopted by the UNESCO General Conference at its twentieth session (see A/51/201, annex, appendix II), the Declaration of Principles on Tolerance was published as a brochure and distributed in the six official languages of that organization in 1996. The Office of Public Information also published it, in a more attractive format, in three languages. It is also available, in three languages, on the Internet web-site on the UNESCO server. As of 1997, it was being translated into and distributed in several other languages.

39. The Bulgarian National Commission for UNESCO has translated the Declaration into Bulgarian and distributed it.

40. The National Commission for UNESCO of the Philippines has translated it into the national language and distributed it nationwide.

41. The German National Commission has translated the Declaration into German.

42. The University of São Paulo, in Brazil, with the support of the State authorities, printed and distributed it in Portuguese, together with the set of four educational posters on tolerance (September–October 1997).

### Books and magazines

43. The collection of essays, *Tolérance, j'écris ton nom*, which is scheduled for translation into Spanish in 1998, was published by UNESCO in 1996. The text of the first Mahatma Gandhi memorial lecture was published in a book commemorating the one hundred and twenty-fifth anniversary of the birth of Mahatma Gandhi and the United Nations Year for Tolerance.

44. At the end of 1996, a special issue of the magazine *Diogenes* on the theme of tolerance was published by the International Council for Philosophy and Human Sciences. It contained reflections by prominent thinkers such as Paul Ricoeur, Octavio Paz and Abdelwahab Boudhiba, as well as the complete text of the Declaration of Principles on Tolerance.

45. In addition to the regular features on tolerance and the culture of peace published throughout 1995, the *UNESCO Courier* included an insert on tolerance in all its January 1997 issues.

46. The World Federation of UNESCO Associations, Centres and Clubs printed the Declaration in its bulletin *Confluences*, and several clubs organized contests and other activities around that theme.

47. The proceedings of the Tbilisi International Forum of 1995 were published in three languages under the title "The Meeting of Civilizations – Conflict or Dialogue".

48. Following the establishment of the Asia/Pacific Network, the first issue of the magazine *Central Asia and the Culture of Peace* was published in Bishkek, in June 1997. The publication contained the Declaration in Russian.

49. John Locke's *Epistola de Tolerancia* (1689) was published in Czech under the responsibility of Petr Horak (1997).

50. Following the establishment of the Mediterranean and Black Sea regional tolerance network, the Tbilisi Orbeliani Pedagogical University had the UNESCO publication *Democracy and Tolerance* translated into Georgian.

51. The UNESCO club of Verona, Italy, published the UNESCO guide to teaching tolerance, in Italian.

### Miscellaneous

52. The UNESCO Madanjeet Singh Prize for the Promotion of Tolerance and Non-Violence, instituted in 1995 by the UNESCO Executive Board, was awarded for the first time, to Pro-Femmes Twese Hamwe, a federation of 32 Rwandese women's groups, at a ceremony organized at UNESCO headquarters on 18 November 1996. Three people also received honourable mentions. Other activities included an exhibition of tolerance posters presented by the NGO Standing Committee and the publication by UNESCO Press of a statement by the Director-General on the occasion of the International Day for Tolerance. A brochure in three languages, entitled "Ten ideas for observing the International Day for Tolerance", was produced and distributed in advance of the Day.

53. In the context of its twenty-eighth annual session the model United Nations Conference (The Hague, 21–26 January 1996) devoted a special meeting to the United Nations Year for Tolerance.

54. In 1996, the Government of Quebec, in Canada, organized a programme of activities spread out over the entire year.

55. On 1 May 1996, the Square of Tolerance was inaugurated at UNESCO headquarters. On 3 May 1996, the UNESCO Office in Maputo launched a public awareness tolerance campaign with the participation of members of Parliament, ministers, journalists, the United Nations and

non-governmental organizations. It also distributed UNESCO tolerance posters.

56. The UNESCO office in El Salvador promoted tolerance through a series of activities that included a peace festival, a military forum, a photo contest, and distribution of UNESCO tolerance posters to all political parties. Several workshops for women were held in the context of the Beijing Platform for Action (Fourth World Conference on Women, September 1995).

57. In Bolivia, the project "Ruta Quetzal Argentaria" presented the UNESCO tolerance flags to the public. The crew of the "Mata Rangi" Boat of Tolerance expedition reached Easter Island and Australia.

58. The closing concert of the summit of the seven major industrialized countries in Lyons, France, on 29 June 1996, was dedicated to tolerance. A benefit rock concert for tolerance organized by the UNESCO Youth Division in Paris, on 5 December 1996, drew some 5,000 people.

59. Pursuant to decision 151 EX/DEC.7.2 of the UNESCO Executive Board a debate on the theme "Youth and Tolerance" was organized in November 1997, within the context of the work of the twenty-ninth session of the General Conference.

60. A gala to benefit Yad la Yeled Memorial Museum of the Children of the Shoah was held on 4 March 1998 at UNESCO headquarters under the patronage of UNESCO; the keynote was the promotion of tolerance.

## V. Four regional networks

61. As a direct result of the UNESCO Declaration of Principles on Tolerance and Follow-up Plan of Action for the United Nations Year for Tolerance, four regional networks were established, all of which seek to strengthen tolerance and non-violence in accordance with General Conference resolution 28 C/5.6.

### A. Mediterranean/Black Sea Basin

62. An International Meeting of Experts for the Establishment of a Mediterranean and Black Sea Regional Network Against Intolerance, Discrimination and Violence was organized by the UNESCO Unit for Tolerance and the UNESCO Catalunya Centre, in Barcelona, Spain, on 8 and 9 September 1996. Participants from North Africa, Southern Europe, the Balkans and the Caucasus proposed a wide array of concrete activities ranging from the publication of "classics of tolerance" to interreligious and intercultural dialogue, to scholarships for young researchers. They volunteered to undertake some 20 specific projects and programmes to advance the causes of mutual understanding, conflict prevention, pluralism and human rights in the region. The Foundation for International Studies of the University of Malta offered its facilities to provide a small secretariat for the network, as well as a newsletter. Immediately following the meeting, the first action in the context of the new network was taken when the Board of Directors of Galatasaray University in Istanbul, Turkey, formally decided to offer a course on tolerance and UNESCO and to organize a congress on journalists and tolerance in the region.

### B. Asia and Pacific

63. The International Meeting of Experts for the Establishment of an Asia and Pacific Regional Network Against Intolerance, Discrimination and Violence was organized by the UNESCO Unit for Tolerance and the National Commission for UNESCO of the Republic of Korea at Kwangju University, Republic of Korea, from 17 to 20 September 1996. Participants discussed the particular problems and challenges of the region, named institutional coordinators and advocated lines of action. A research centre for tolerance was established at Kwangju University and the latter agreed to act as local secretariat and to publish a newsletter for the network. The first newsletter was issued in June 1997.

### C. Africa

64. An African Network for Tolerance, Non-Violence and Peace was established at a meeting organized in cooperation with the Senegalese National Commission for UNESCO from 28 to 30 April 1997, in Dakar. Both the Minister of Education and the Minister of Culture of Senegal attended. Representatives of some 10 African countries shared their experiences and views on ways of promoting tolerance and non-violence on the African continent. Specific proposals were made regarding the dissemination of information and the preparation of projects relating to education, social science research and sensitization of the media. The Senegalese National Commission for UNESCO was given the task of providing local secretariat services for the network.

### D. Latin America

65. The decision to establish a network for tolerance and solidarity covering Latin America and the Caribbean was taken within the context of an international conference on "Science, Scientists and Tolerance" which was held from 18 to 22 November 1997 in São Paulo, Brazil. Advantage was taken of the presence of large numbers of participants from scientific and university circles to define the structure of the network, start an exchange of information and launch projects concerning tolerance and non-violence. Participants were of the view that the network should focus, as a matter of priority, on the role of scientists in promoting tolerance at the regional and global level. As experts and, so to speak, sole custodians of the latest knowledge, scientists, it was emphasized, should be ultra responsible citizens and should try to educate, inform and shape society. That concern would guide the work of the network. The University of São Paulo was asked to provide secretariat services for the network.

## VI. Meetings and discussions

66. The National Commission of Kyrgyzstan for UNESCO hosted a conference on tolerance and early prevention of conflicts in Central Asia in Bishkek, from 4 to 6 June 1996.

67. The UNESCO Office in Quito organized a national conference on tolerance (4–6 June 1996) with the participation of educational establishments and the national youth bureau. It also organized, with the help of local universities, two academic conferences on the United Nations Year for Tolerance.

68. The first international conference organized by the Marques de Pombal Foundation and the Portuguese National Commission for UNESCO on "Tolerance/ Intolerance" was held in Lisbon, on 4 October 1996.

69. The international Institute of Philosophy organized a conference on "Philosophy and Tolerance" in Rabat from 10 to 14 October 1996.

70. In Medellin, Colombia, 80 representatives of indigenous organizations, members of Parliament, educators, military personnel and development agents participated in a round table meeting to discuss ways of combating violence at the local level (22 and 23 October 1996).

71. UNESCO participated in the World Youth Forum of the United Nations system (Vienna, 25–29 November 1996), *inter alia*, through a working group on "youth, tolerance, racism and xenophobia".

72. The Foundation for the Survival of Humanity hosted a conference in Moscow on ways to promote the ideals of tolerance and non-violence in the Russian Federation and the Commonwealth of Independent States, from 3 to 6 March 1997. The new Tbilisi International Centre is implementing a programme on education and teacher training in multinational societies.

73. "Tolerance – The threshold of peace" was the title of a subregional conference of the Commonwealth of Independent States organized in cooperation with the Foundation for the Survival of Humanity, the Academy of Natural Sciences and the Academy of Education of the Russian Federation; it was held in Moscow on 4 and 5 March 1997. The Academy of Natural Sciences printed – at its own expense – 5,000 copies of the UNESCO brochure entitled *Tolerance – The Threshold of Peace*, in Russian.

74. On 27 and 28 March 1997 an international forum against intolerance, organized by the Academie Universelle des Cultures under the patronage of Jacques Chirac, President of the French Republic, was held both at UNESCO and the University of La Sorbonne.

75. In April 1997 UNESCO organized, in Uruguay and Brazil, conferences for writers on the theme "Tolerance – The role of writers in the struggle for a culture of peace".

76. Within the context of the Children's Summit in Paris (9–13 June 1997), young people from 39 countries participated in a workshop to discuss what tolerance means to different nationalities and how to promote tolerance in daily life.

77. In Colombia, the Luis Carlos Galan Institute for Democracy is preparing several seminars and establishing a UNESCO Chair on tolerance and democracy, with the participation of schools, universities and non-governmental organizations.

78. The UNESCO Participation Programme has helped provide assistance to the Government of the Sudan to host a regional seminar on tolerance in Africa. It has also contributed, on the one hand, to the establishment of the Tbilisi International Centre for Peace and Tolerance for a Dialogue of Cultures and, on the other hand, for an international colloquium in Romania on the theme "Tolerance in the Balkans".

79. A ceremony to celebrate the 400th anniversary of the Edict of Nantes was held at UNESCO headquarters on 18 February 1998; President Chirac delivered a statement.

80. A conference/discussion on the theme "Islam and Christianity" was held at UNESCO headquarters on

20 February 1998. The moderator was Hassan Bin Talal, Crown Prince of Jordan and author of a book, entitled *Christianity in the Arab World*, on the history of Christianity in the Middle East, which was first published in 1995. There was a lively discussion on the dialogue of the two major religions.

81. The tolerance centre organized a first seminar on women and tolerance, on 10 and 11 April 1998, in Belgrade. About 20 women from the various regions of Yugoslavia participated. The aim was to bring together women from different ethnic groups and have them exchange views on the human rights situation in that country. Two professors from the University of Belgrade also participated in the discussion. Everyone concluded that the situation of women in Yugoslavia has greatly deteriorated during the crisis, particularly in the minority groups. Women are pressured both outside the home, by the State, and within the home, because of patriarchal traditions, and thus they are a minority within each minority.

82. On 6 June 1998, the Belgrade Tolerance Centre also organized, with the support of the Westminister Foundation for Democracy, a seminar on "Women, Journalism and Tolerance".

83. Although the various activities and projects outlined above do not give an exhaustive picture of the work being done by Member States, non-governmental organizations and intergovernmental organizations, they nonetheless are a true reflection of the implementation of the campaign for tolerance launched in 1995 by the United Nations and UNESCO.